

In the Abstract:

Attached to this amendment is an Abstract of the Invention. Please insert this Abstract on the page which immediately precedes the drawings.

In the Specification:

On page 1, please insert the below paragraph, above the first original paragraph of the application:

Cross Reference to Related Applications:

This application is a continuation of US application, PCT/FR02/03103, filed on September 12, 2002, of the same title, and claims priority under the Paris Convention to French patent application 01/11905, filed on September 14, 2001, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference thereto.

On page 6, line 9, please amend the corresponding paragraph as follows:

The nucleus prosthesis 1 is introduced into the ~~intervertebral~~ cavity 4 between adjacent vertebrae (i.e., intervertebrally) by an insertion assembly 2 allowing its introduction, namely:

On page 7, lines 20-21, please amend the corresponding paragraph as follows:

The male part 11 (fig 14 and 15) can comprise at its end a flange 115 which comprises a fixing 116 on the bones, for example: holes allowing fastening screws to pass, in order to better guarantee in certain cases the non-expulsion of the prosthesis. The female part, due to its adaptation of form coming from its nature as an elastic material, may have a capacity of deformation which enables it to pass through tubes and openings of insertion which have more reduced sections, one can appreciate the ratio reduction or compression (relationship R between the expanded diameters \bar{D} and the contracted diameter, d before and after installation in the tube) R is greater than 2

On page 8, line 1, please amend the corresponding paragraph as follows:

In another embodiment (see figures 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22) the elastically deformable nucleus prosthesis 1 includes two parts;

a means 12, referred to as a female part, having the shape of an open ring in order to let in a male part 11, the means 12 comprises a threading 127f receiving a guidance stem 21 whose end is threaded with a threading 127 (male threading 127m corresponding to 127f), the aforementioned rigid stem 21 makes it possible to freely guide the male part 11 of the prosthesis 1 until its insertion and also to withdraw stem 21 by simple unscrewing, once prosthesis 1 is in place.

On page 8, line 8, please amend the corresponding paragraph as follows:

Means 12 includes an opening 122 allowing the introduction of means 11 (male part 127m 127a). Means 11 preferably has the shape of a one way cork, it comprises a full deformable spherical head 111 as well as, if necessary, a slightly extending cylindrical body, and is placed at the periphery of the ring.

In the Drawings:

The drawings have been amended to refer to references D, and a, and 127m, 127f and 127a. Replacement drawing sheets are attached.

§ § §